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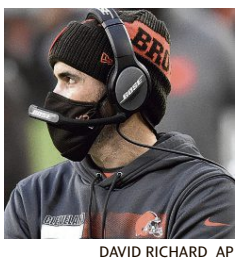
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CHAOS AT U.S. CAPITOL

ANDREW HARNIK AP

U.S. Capitol Police with guns drawn stand near a barricaded door as rioters try to break into the House Chamber at the U.S. Capitol on Wednesday in Washington.

Trump mob disrupts count of Electoral College votes

BY MICHAEL WILNER, ALEX DAUGHERTY, TARA COPP AND BAILEY ALDRIDGE
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WASHINGTON

Hundreds of rioters encouraged by President Donald Trump stormed the U.S. Capitol on Wednesday, crashing through police lines to lay siege to the building and force a halt to the constitutional process of certifying the Electoral College count after the Nov. 3 presidential election.

Americans watched in horror as the mob scaled walls and smashed windows at the Capitol, which has been closed to visitors throughout the coronavirus pandemic. The intrusion came as both houses of Congress were debating an objection raised by Sen. Ted Cruz, R-Texas, to the counting of Arizona's Electoral College votes.

As the violence raged on Capitol Hill, the White House announced that Trump had directed the National Guard to help law enforcement quell the unrest.

The president, who hours earlier had encouraged his supporters to march on the Capitol, issued a video statement in which he doubled down on his false claims that the election was stolen from him while calling on the rioters to leave.

"You have to go home now.

SEE CAPITOL, 5A

NC members of Congress condemn day's violence

BY LUCILLE SHERMAN AND BRIAN MURPHY
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The U.S. House and Senate were evacuated Wednesday as rioters who support President Donald Trump broke into the Capitol, interrupting the planned certification of President-elect Joe Biden's election victory.

Members of Congress from North Carolina took to Twitter to condemn the violence and praise Capitol Hill police, including those lawmakers who planned to object to the certification.

Both chambers were debating the certification of Arizona's election results when the Capitol building was breached.

SEE CONGRESS, 8A

Gov. Cooper extends statewide curfew

BY ADAM WAGNER AND DAWN BAUMGARTNER VAUGHAN
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North Carolina Gov. Roy Cooper on Wednesday said he is extending the state's modified stay-at-home order for three weeks, including a curfew, while the state's top health official issued her own order to direct people to only leave home for essential activities.

The governor's order will continue to require that people stay home from 10 p.m. to 5 a.m. It now will expire Jan. 29 at 5 p.m.

North Carolina has been under Phase 3 of restrictions since the fall, an executive order that has been extended several times. Cooper's executive order was set to expire Friday.

Dr. Mandy Cohen, secretary of the N.C. Department of Health and Human Services, also issued a directive telling people to stay home unless they are going to work, school, to exercise, to attend to health care needs or to get groceries.

"We just want to make sure that people understand how serious this is and that people really need to step up and make

SEE VIRUS, 2A

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